

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement formal drawings of Figures 6, 10A and 13 are submitted concurrently herewith under a separate cover letter.

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of April 18, 2006 is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 2 and 3 have been amended, claim 1 has been cancelled and new claim 4 has been added. Thus, claims 2-4 are currently pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

In order to make editorial improvements, the entire specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised. Due to the number of revisions, the amendments to the specification and abstract have been incorporated into the attached substitute specification and abstract. For the Examiner's benefit, a marked-up copy of the specification and abstract indicating the changes made thereto is also enclosed. No new matter has been added by the revisions. Entry of the substitute specification is thus respectfully requested.

In order to correct errors in the reference numbers contained in Figs. 6, 10A and 13, replacement Figs. 6, 10A and 13 have been submitted, under separate cover, along with this Amendment. In particular, reference number 130 in Fig. 6 has been replaced with the correct reference number 130. Additionally, original Fig. 10A incorrectly identified the air inlet opening with the reference number 21L. Replacement Fig. 10A now correctly identifies the air inlet opening as 21Li. Further, original Fig. 13 incorrectly identified the left guide duct with reference number 21L. Replacement Fig. 13 now correctly identifies the left guide duct as 22L. No new matter has been added by these revisions. Entry of replacement Figs. 6, 10A and 13 is thus respectfully requested.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by O'Neill et al. (U.S. 6,167,976). However, as indicated above, independent claim 1 has been cancelled and replaced with new independent claim 4. For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, as amended, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

Amended independent claim 4 recites an engine compartment cover which, as shown in Figs. 3-6, comprises a hood 10 for covering a top of the engine, and left and right side covers 20L, 20R extending from the hood 10 to cover left and right sides of the engine. The left and right side covers 20L, 20R have air inlet openings 21Li, 21Ri arranged such that external air is introduced into the engine compartment.

The hood 10 has a box-type structure, and includes an exterior top plate 11, a bottom plate 13, left and right side plates 12L, 12R and front and rear side plates 12F, 12B. *The hood 10 has air inlet openings 12Li, 12Ri provided only in the left and right side plates 12L, 12R, and the hood 10 has an air outlet opening 13o provided only in the bottom plate 13.*

O'Neill discloses an engine enclosure comprising a hood 48 and a baffle 46. The hood 48 includes a top member 62, left and right members 64, 70, a rear grille 54, and a front member 56 having a screen 60 with inlets 58. However, O'Neill does not disclose an engine compartment cover which includes a hood having the box-type structure as recited in independent claim 4.

In particular, O'Neill does not disclose a hood in which air inlet openings are provided only in the left and right side plates. Rather, O'Neill discloses a hood in which the left and right members 64, 70 do not have air inlet openings, and air inlet openings are provided in the screen 60 of the front member 56. Therefore, O'Neill does not disclose a hood in which air inlet openings are provided only in the left and right side plates because O'Neill discloses air inlet openings in the front member.

Additionally, O'Neill does not disclose a hood in which an air outlet opening is provided only in the bottom plate. O'Neill discloses air outlet openings 84, 86, 88 provided in the baffle 46, and also discloses air outlet openings in the rear grille 54. Therefore, O'Neill does not disclose a hood in which an air outlet opening is provided only in the bottom plate because O'Neill discloses air outlet openings in the rear grille.

Further, O'Neill does not disclose an engine compartment cover which includes the box-type hood structure described above and left and right side covers, as required by independent claim 4. O'Neill only discloses left and right members 64, 70, and does not teach left and right side covers in addition to the hood structure having left and right side plates. Furthermore, because O'Neill does not disclose left and right side covers, O'Neill also does not disclose air inlet openings provided in left and right side covers.

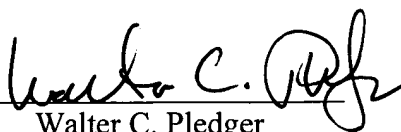
Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 4, as well as claims 2-3 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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